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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 515, and I commend Congressman SMITH for his continued leadership efforts to combat human trafficking. It is an issue many of us take very, very seriously.

This Congress, the House has passed several commonsense, bipartisan pieces of legislation to end human trafficking, and we remain dedicated to finding solutions to prevent this criminal activity, to protect victims, and to prosecute those individuals who seek to exploit innocent children.

One year ago today, I spoke on this critical piece of legislation when it first came to the House floor. I am glad the Senate has finally considered it, and I am proud to be standing here again today as this legislation will finally make its way to the President's desk for his signature following the legislation's passage here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking is not a distant concept. It exists in communities across America. An estimated

300,000 young Americans are in danger of becoming victims of sex trafficking. The average age, believe it or not, is 12 to 14 years old for girls. Last year alone, my home State of Pennsylvania had a total of 106 reported cases of human trafficking and 514 calls of human trafficking violations. In fact, Pennsylvania has stepped up the fight by enacting stricter human trafficking laws, and it was named one of the top five "most improved" States by the Polaris Project.

The legislation we have passed here in the House is another step in the right direction. We have made progress, but there is more that we can and must do. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue the fight against human trafficking.

BARCLAY GROUNDS

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to highlight the success of a local land preservation effort in West Chester Borough, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The Barclay Grounds, located in West Chester Borough, is a beautiful property. The land has a rich history dating back to William Penn's charter from the King. Over the years, it has served as an orchard and has been utilized for agricultural purposes as well as for passive recreation activities. For over 2 years, local officials and grassroots volunteers have worked on a common mission: to preserve the Barclay Grounds for future generations.

I can recall, when I was a county commissioner, when a gentleman by the name of John Cottage, who founded the Barclay Grounds Preservation Alliance, came in to see us, and I and my then-colleagues on the Board of County Commissioners, Terence Farrell and Kathi Cozzone, decided that this was a worthwhile endeavor. We provided the seed funding, if you will, to help kick-start the grant application process for several funding streams to make sure that we would be able to preserve the Barclay Grounds.

I am pleased to stand before this country today and say that a group of local officials and local volunteers did something great in a local community that is going to preserve for future generations a really historic, cultural, and environmental gem.

I commend the dedicated officials in the West Chester community, including the West Chester Borough Council, a lot of people involved in the preservation movement, including the grant writing teams at the Natural Lands Trust, as well as the Brandywine Conservancy and many others, for their efforts to preserve this passive park.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDY). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

With exciting news for some, disappointing for others, and remarkable for our Nation, the Members of this assembly gather to address the work that is theirs to perform.

May each Member be reminded of the responsibility before them and, amidst the heightened emotions of this day, properly and accurately discern substance from distraction.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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